

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

RS23848

This is a fiscal year 2016 appropriation and transfer of \$400,000 from the General Fund to the Wolf Control Fund Other Money Subaccount.

Enabling legislation passed in 2014 found that additional financial resources are needed to continue the implementation of Idaho's Wolf management plan. It established a five-member Wolf Depredation Control Board in the Governor's Office and created a set of new funds and subaccounts to be administered by the Department of Agriculture. The law established fees from the livestock industry, to be matched up to \$110,000 per year by sportsmen, to be transferred into the Wolf Control Fund.

The responsibility of the Wolf Control Board is to allocate the money for control actions for wolves where there is a depredation conflict between wolves and wildlife or between wolves and livestock. The board has a cooperative services agreement and a work plan with Wildlife Services.

During the period of April, May, and June of 2014, the livestock subaccount received revenues of about \$54,600. At the beginning of the current year, sportsmen matched that \$54,600, and with \$400,000 appropriated from the General Fund, the total available for FY 2015 was about \$509,200. Actual expenses through January were \$142,800 leaving a balance of about \$366,400. A second work plan of \$236,000 leaves an estimated balance at year-end of \$130,400.

Todd Grimm of Wildlife Services in Idaho stated on February 3rd that 31 wolves had been removed during the July through December 2014 period. The budget was set on March 10, a day after Idaho Department of Fish and Game announced that another 19 wolves were killed in the Lolo zone in February as part of the effort.

FISCAL NOTE

This bill appropriates and transfers \$400,000 from the General Fund to the Wolf Control Fund Other Money Subaccount for FY 2016.

Contact:

Ray Houston
Budget and Policy Analysis
(208) 334-4741